

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-18, and 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, and 22 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 8, 12-18, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

The present application and EP 1067545A2 (Lee et al.) were, at the time of invention of the present application, owned by Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

TRAVERSALS

The Office Action objected to claims 10 and 12-18 for various informalities. In response, Applicants have amended these claims in view of the Examiner's comments.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-18, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action contends that recitations in independent claims 1, 8, and 22 of "sectors," "each sector," and "the sector" render these claims indefinite.

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, and 22 in manners believed to traverse this rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 8, and 22 now even more fully satisfy the requirements of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 3-5 and 9-18 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 8.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the conventional data linking methods described in Applicants' disclosure and illustrated by FIGS. 1A-1C. Claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the conventional data linking methods in view of EP 1067545 (Lee et al.). Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-137948 (Ueki) in view of the conventional data linking methods. Claims 11-15 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueki in view of these conventional data linking methods, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,547 (Yamamuro). Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueki, in view of the conventional data linking methods and Yamamuro, and further in view of EP 1052639 (Lee et al.). Claims 1, 3-5, 8-18 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1067545 (Lee et al.) in view of the conventional data linking methods. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, that each respective one of plural sectors has a data identification area, in which information identifying the type of data recorded in the respective sector is recorded, and the data identification area indicates whether the data recorded in that sector is linking data.

Independent claim 8 recites, inter alia, a checking unit checking and outputting the type of data if no error occurs in an error correction code block having a plurality of sectors, each respective one of the sectors having data type identification information which indicates whether data recorded in that sector is linking data.

Independent claim 22 recites, inter alia, a checking unit checking and outputting the type of data if no error occurs in an error correction code block having a plurality of sectors, each respective one of the sectors having data type identification information which indicates whether data recorded in that sector is linking data.

However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the asserted citations discloses at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 1, 8, and 22. Thus, without conceding the propriety of any of the asserted combinations, it is also respectfully submitted that the asserted combinations are likewise deficient, even in view of the knowledge of those of ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by the conventional data linking methods, the Office Action states that the identifying information identifies the type of data in the next sector. (Office Action, page 4). However, as both previously presented and as amended herein, independent claims 1, 8, and 22 recite that each respective sector has an identification area indicating whether data recorded in that sector is linking data. Thus, the conventional data linking methods, which the Office Action describes as identifying whether data recoded in a next sector is linking data, cannot anticipate independent claims 1, 8, and 22.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Ueki and the conventional data linking methods, the primary citation to Ueki is not understood to disclose a recording medium in which each sector has information about whether data recorded therein is linking data. Indeed, paragraph [0023] of Ueki explains that information about a location of linking information in a block is stored in a linking information management domain on the recording medium and that, based on this information, one sector of a block including the linking information is determined. Further, each block is defined as having two or more sectors (Ueki, paragraph [0020]). Thus, there are sectors in each block that do not have any indicia of whether data recorded in that sector is linking data.

Regarding the secondary citation to the conventional data linking methods, as explained above, these methods do not teach or suggest at least the aforementioned features of independent claims 1, 8, and 22.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of the conventional data linking methods, Lee et al. no longer qualifies as prior art. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, § 706(I).

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 8, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Lee et al. and the conventional data linking methods are respectfully requested.

Yamamuro relates to an optical disk device and replacement processing method and is cited for its alleged disclosures of various features of claims 11-18. Applicants respectfully submit that Yamamuro adds nothing to the combination of Ueki and the conventional data linking methods that remedies the aforementioned deficiency.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised

by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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